

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

29 September 2010

The Honorable Ike Skelton  
Chairman  
Committee on Armed Services  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Howard "Buck" McKeon  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Armed Services  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman & Ranking Member:

Recently Secretary Gates announced broad plans to reduce costs in the Department of Defense and re-appropriate those savings throughout the Department. As part of this plan, the Secretary announced three longer term projects and eight initiatives that he plans to begin implementing immediately. These eight initiatives have the ability to affect the Department, its ability to effectively fulfill its mission, and the security of the nation.

A decision of this magnitude should not be made without careful reflection, supported by rigorous analysis. We have been told by the Department that the Secretary had several meetings and reviewed these decisions carefully. However, it seems clear that this decision did not carefully consider the national defense implications of such a change, nor is the decision substantiated with any sort of calculation of the direct and indirect costs to our national defense structure. In addition, no information has been provided by the Department to demonstrate any level of analysis, either financial or strategic, to determine what risks are being introduced into our national security strategy and how we are to mitigate these new risks.

During a briefing to the HASC on August 10, 2010 the Department was asked to provide data collected and ensuing analysis supporting the recommendations announced by the Secretary on August 9, 2010. Almost immediately following this briefing a congressional letter was sent from several member of the HASC in search of this

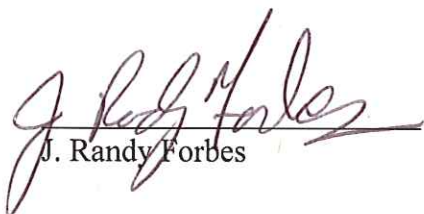
analysis. To date, we have not received this information. Ranking Member McKeon, Mr. Wittman and Mr. Forbes repeated this request to the Department in a August 31, 2010 letter.

We request that you require Secretary of Defense Robert Gates to serve as an expert witness before this Committee prior to any further implementation of his announced initiatives in order to provide the Committee all information needed to assess, understand, and provide oversight as required by law. If the request is refused, we ask that you immediately utilize all means available to compel him to appear to testify before this Committee.

Additionally, it is vital that the members of the committee are afforded the opportunity to thoroughly review all data, analysis, and other documentation supporting the Secretary's initiatives and related decisions. As this information has been requested by the Committee on August 10, by members of the Committee on August 31, and again by Committee staff during the intervening period between August 10 and today, and that the Department has either refused to respond or provided incomplete information, we request that the Committee subpoena the Department, compelling them to provide the analysis and information collected prior to August 9 upon which these decisions are being made..

Thank you for understanding the need to proceed in a deliberate, thoughtful and fully transparent manner.

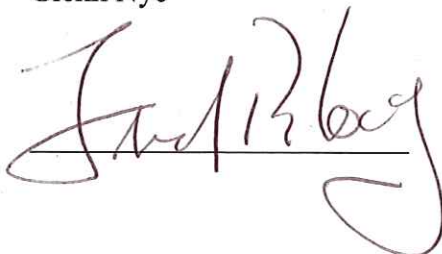
Sincerely,

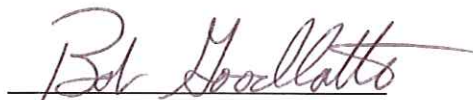
  
J. Randy Forbes

  
Robert "Bobby" Scott

  
Glenn Nye

  
Bob Wittman

  
Bob Goodlatte

  
Bob Goodlatte

Ben Wilson

Amcar H. H.

Robt. J.

John Looney  
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W. G. G. G.

Michael M. M.

J. H. M.

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Th. L. L.

Todd R. R.

Frank J. J.

John K.

Mike C.

Walter B. B.

John F. F. LA 04

Peter G. G. ALS

G. L. L.

Cathy H. Hagen WA-05

Mick Ryan AL-3

Paula MD-6

Long Lamborn CO-5

Mary Fullin



M/S A Paiz

Joe Courtney

AMK (and) J.A. 1/14

J. Lyons

Robert E. D.

Ch. B.

J. B.

Charles W. K. Lee WA-05

Mike McIntyre NC-7

Mike Royen AL-3

Paula MD-6

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